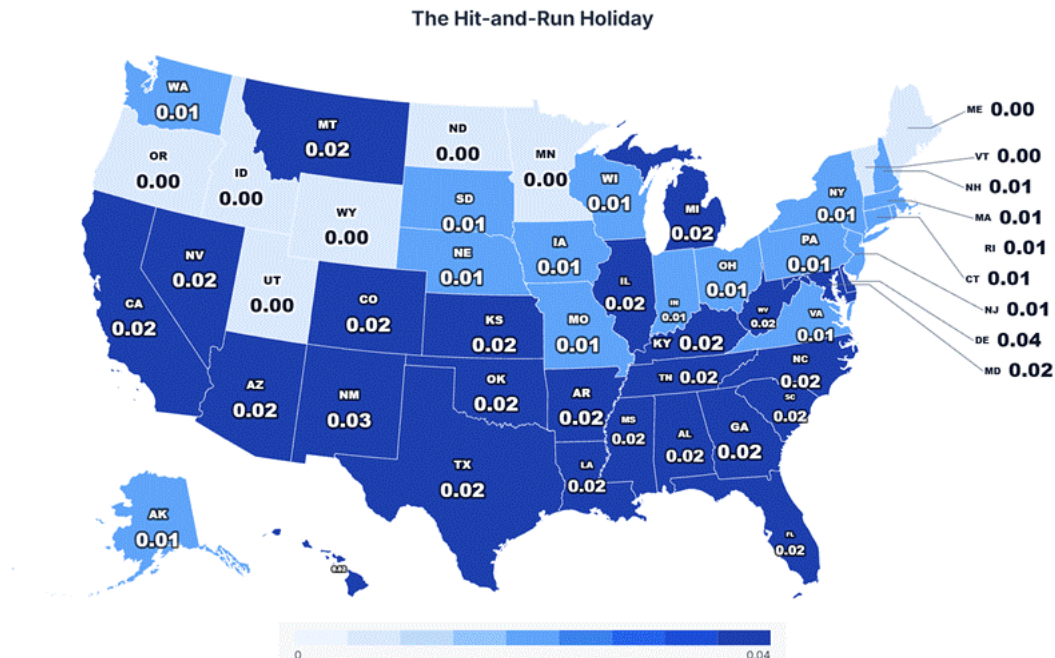


California Ranks 9th Nationally for Fatal Labor Day Hit-and-Run Crashes Per Capita as Rate Climbs 38.9%, Study Finds



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- California recorded 86 fatal hit-and-run crashes across all 10 Labor Day weekends from 2015 to 2024, the highest absolute total of any state in the nation, with the state recording at least one crash in every year studied.
- California's average annual fatal hit-and-run crashes per Labor Day weekend rose from 7.2 in the pre-2020 period (2015 to 2019) to 10.0 in the post-2020 period (2020 to 2024), a 38.9% increase.
- California ranks 2nd among all 13 Western states on a per capita basis, recording a rate of 0.02 fatal hit-and-run crashes per 100,000 residents, with 2021 marking the state's highest single Labor Day weekend total in the decade at 12 crashes.

Labor Day weekend, one of the most heavily traveled periods in the American calendar, carries a well-documented risk of road fatalities. But within that broader picture, one category of crash stands apart: the hit-and-run. When a driver causes a fatal collision and flees, a failure of accountability that leaves families without answers and communities without justice compounds the human cost.

According to an analysis by [Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers](#), data were drawn from the FARS / CDAN Query system, covering all 50 U.S. states across 10 Labor Day weekends from 2015 through 2024. The primary state ranking uses average annual fatal hit-and-run crashes divided by 2024 population estimates, expressed per 100,000 residents, to enable fair comparison across states of different sizes.

California Ranks 9th Among the Top 10 States for Fatal Hit-and-Run Crashes Per Capita

Rank	State	Total Crashes (2015 to 2024)	Annual Average	Rate Per 100,000 Residents
1	Delaware	4	0.4	0.04
2	New Mexico	7	0.7	0.03
3	Oklahoma	10	1.0	0.02
4	Florida	57	5.7	0.02
5	Louisiana	11	1.1	0.02
6	Kansas	7	0.7	0.02
7	West Virginia	4	0.4	0.02
8	Maryland	14	1.4	0.02
9	California	86	8.6	0.02
10	North Carolina	23	2.3	0.02

California ranks 9th nationally at a rate of 0.02 fatal hit-and-run crashes per 100,000 residents, recording 86 total crashes across all 10 Labor Day weekends studied, the highest absolute volume of any state nationally. Delaware at 0.04 and New Mexico at 0.03 record higher per capita rates, while Oklahoma, Florida, Louisiana, West Virginia, Kansas, and Maryland all rank above California at the same rounded rate of 0.02. California is the only state in the top 10 to have recorded at least one fatal hit-and-run crash in every single year studied alongside Florida.

Commenting on the study, Chrissy Grigoropoulos, Founding Partner of Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers, said:

"California's position in the national top 10 despite its vast population of nearly 40 million reflects the scale and density of its road network rather than any single localized risk factor. With 86 crashes across 10 Labor Day weekends, the state accounts for more than 15% of all fatal hit-and-run crashes recorded nationally over the decade, pointing to a systemic challenge embedded in high-volume travel corridors across the state."

California Ranks 2nd Among All Western States in Fatal Hit-and-Run Crash Rates Per Capita

Rank	State	Total Crashes (2015 to 2024)	Annual Average	Rate Per 100,000 Residents
1	New Mexico	7	0.7	0.03

2	California	86	8.6	0.02
3	Hawaii	3	0.3	0.02
4	Montana	2	0.2	0.02
5	Arizona	12	1.2	0.02
6	Nevada	5	0.5	0.02
7	Colorado	9	0.9	0.02
8	Washington	11	1.1	0.01
9	Alaska	1	0.1	0.01
10	Oregon	2	0.2	0.00
11	Utah	0	0.0	0.00
12	Idaho	0	0.0	0.00
13	Wyoming	0	0.0	0.00

California ranks 2nd among all 13 Western states with a per capita rate of 0.02 fatal hit-and-run crashes per 100,000 residents, behind only New Mexico at 0.03. California contributed 86 of the Western region's 138 total crashes over the decade, representing 62.3% of the region's total, the dominant share of any single Western state. Three states recorded zero crashes across the entire decade: Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, each at a per capita rate of 0.00.

California Fatal Hit-and-Run Crashes Peaked in 2021, Reaching a Decade High of 12 Crashes

Year	Fatal Hit-and-Run Crashes
2015	9
2016	8
2017	7
2018	6
2019	6
2020	8
2021	12
2022	11
2023	11
2024	8

California recorded at least one fatal hit-and-run crash in every one of the 10 Labor Day weekends studied, the only Western state in the national top 10 with an unbroken annual record. The post-2020 period (2020 to 2024) recorded 50 crashes compared with 36 in the pre-2020 period (2015 to 2019), with the annual average rising from 7.2 to 10.0, a 38.9% increase. This is broadly in line with the national post-2020 increase of 41.1%, indicating

California's trajectory closely tracks the broader national trend. The year 2021 marks California's highest single Labor Day weekend total in the decade at 12 crashes.

California Records the Highest Fatal Hit-and-Run Rate Among Its Neighboring States

State	Total Crashes (2015 to 2024)	Annual Average	Rate Per 100,000 Residents
California	86	8.6	0.02
Arizona	12	1.2	0.02
Nevada	5	0.5	0.02
Oregon	2	0.2	0.00

California records the highest per capita rate among its bordering states at 0.02, ahead of Arizona (rank 22) and Nevada (rank 24), both also at 0.02 but with markedly lower absolute volumes of 12 and 5 crashes respectively. Oregon records the lowest rate among California's neighbors at 0.00, ranking 43rd nationally. California's 86 total crashes far exceed the combined total of all its neighboring states, underscoring the state's dominant contribution to Western region crash volumes.

Methodology

The FARS / CDAN Query system provided the data for all 50 states. The analysis examined fatal hit-and-run crash data recorded on Labor Day weekends across all 50 U.S. states for the 10 years from 2015 through 2024, covering a total of 10 individual Labor Day weekends. The per capita rate for each state was calculated by dividing the state's average annual fatal hit-and-run crashes by its 2024 population estimate, then multiplying by 100,000. This rate forms the basis of the primary state ranking, enabling proportional comparison between states regardless of population size. States are ranked from highest to lowest per capita rate. The bottom 10 ranking applies the same methodology in reverse. Figures reflect FARS / CDAN data as published at the time of extraction.

Data Sources

- **FARS / CDAN Query (all 50 states):** <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>
- **Research Dataset:** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13KE6i2PHvngl1Pi7mzpbuyOoUBI6WzLuETPJe8b1tyQ/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
- **Research by:** <https://grigorlaw.com/>

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Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers is a premier New York "all injury" law firm representing clients in personal injury, car accidents, workers' compensation, and no-fault claims.